(547)

TEL AV 02440 2307362

-25

COT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

7312 FEB 78

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECSTATE WASHDC 1415

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2440

XDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PILI, IS, US

SUBJECT: SS LIBERTY CLAIM

REF: STATE 43537

1. WHEN I DISCUSSED THE SS LIBERTY CLAIM INFORMALLY WITH EVRON FEBRUARY 21, HE SUGGESTED THAT I DELIVER THE FORMAL NOTE TO HIM RATHER THAN WAIT. THE PROBLEM IS BOGGED DOWN IN GOI INTER-AGENCY BUCK-PASSING, AND EVRON SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE NOTE NOW TO HELP BREAK THE LOGJAM.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE DELIVERED THE NOTE AS CONTAINED IN PARA FIVE OF REFTEL TO THE MFA TODAY, FEBRUARY 22.

3. EVRON SAID THAT HE HOPED WE COULD INDEED NEGOTIATE OVER THE AMOUNT OF THE CLAIM AND THAT THE FIGURE WE HAVE CITED WOULD NOT BE A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT PROPOSITION. I RESPONDED THAT THE TEXT OF THE NOTE I WAS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER ASKED FOR AGREEMENT TO COMMENCE "NEGOTIATIONS," WHICH I INTERPRETED AS MEANING THE AMOUNT MIGHT INDEED BE NEGOTIABLE. HOWEVER, I MADE CLEAR I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS OTHER THAN TO PRESENT THE NOTE AS DRAFTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY NCwood DATE Oct 26/82
RDS☐or XDS☑EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

4. SINCE EVRON WAS MINISTER AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHEN THIS UNHAPPY EVENT OCCURRED, HE HAS PERSONALLY BEEN INVOLVED FROM THE BEGINNING AND WOULD NATURALLY BE HOPING BETTER THAN TO RESOLVE THE CLAIM ONCE AND FOR ALL. APPARENTLY, THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE SOMEWHERE IN THE GOI TO ANY COMPENSATION FOR THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE SHIP. HOWEVER, I FEEL HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN ENTER INTO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON THE BASIS OF THE NOTE.

Rec'd 1/S FEB 23 1978